3rd November 1931]

(*c*) & (*d*) The Government have issued no such orders.

(*e*) A sum of Rs. 4,350 has been surrendered from the allotment for works in charge of the Public Works Department as a measure of retrenchment. There have been no other surrenders.

Land Revenue Administration

Orders of Government on the representations made to His Excellency the Governor regarding takavi loans and wells for irrigation.

* 592 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state what orders have been passed by the Government, on the representations made to His Excellency in July last when he toured in Anantapur district, in respect of—

(1) more wells for irrigation purposes; and

(2) concession rates of interest on takavi loans and especially those taken for digging wells?

A.—The following questions were raised in the representations made to His Excellency the Governor in July 1931, when he toured in the Anantapur district:—

(1) whether money could not be advanced at a lower rate of interest for the purpose of digging wells; and

(2) whether it would be possible to make such a concession retrospective.

The Revised Loan Rules (contained in the Takavi Manual) now in force permit the grant of loans for digging wells at special rates of interest or without interest. For the grant of such a concession, special justification is required in each case. The concessions cannot be granted in any general terms.

The question whether any concession, if granted, should be made retrospective would be decided on the merits of the particular case. No specific order was issued on the above subject as the rules already contain the necessary provision.

Assessment on lands converted into 'wet' or 'garden' by the ryots' labour.

* 593 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. Shetty: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether dry lands which have been converted into wet or garden lands by the ryots in South Kanara are being reclassified now and if so, in which parts of the district, this work has so far been done;

(*b*) whether the Government propose to impose on such lands wet or garden rates of assessment;

(c) whether Government are aware that the conversion of dry lands into wet or garden lands has been done by the ryots' labour and at their own expense; and

(d) whether it is not against the declared policy of the Government to tax ryots' improvements?

A.—(*a*) The following proposals were tentatively approved by the Government to enable the Special Settlement Officer to prepare his scheme for the South Kanara district:—

(i) that dry lands converted into wet should be reclassified at the resettlement and that appropriate rates of wet assessment should be imposed on them, and

(ii) that dry lands which have been converted into garden should be reclassified as garden.

The Government have no information as to the part of the district in which this work has been done.

(*c*) & (*d*) The Settlement Notification issued in 1902 for South Kanara expressly reserved to the Government the right to introduce at the end of the period of settlement such changes in the classification and assessment of 'wet', 'dry' and 'garden' lands as might then seem proper. The reclassification proposed is based on the same principles as those on which the classification now in force was based, and cannot in the circumstances be held to be in violation of the concession made in favour of ryots' improvements. In South Kanara, as elsewhere, the assessment has been, and will hereafter be, based on the commuted value of a share of the net produce of the land. The value of that share will obviously vary according to the capacity of the land to produce dry, wet or garden crops.

(*b*) The Government have not yet considered the matter. Owing to the present financial stringency they have directed that the resettlement of the taluks of the district in which resettlement is due before 1934–35 should be postponed to that year.

Public Service

Fall in the abkari revenue during the current year.

* 594 *Q.*—Mr. P. Bayappa Reddi: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether there has been a fall in the abkari revenue during the current year; if so, by how much;

(*b*) what the deficit of abkari revenue that is anticipated during the coming year is; and

(*c*) whether there is any proposal before the Government for effecting retrenchment in the Excise department by applying 'the axe' to the posts of the Deputy Commissioners and in other directions?